AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant patent application.

What Is Claimed Is:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising [[a]] first ~~oligomer~~ and [[a]] second ~~oligomer,~~ oligomers, wherein:

at least a portion of said first oligomer is capable of hybridizing with at least a portion of said second oligomer,

at least a portion of first oligomer is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a selected target nucleic acid, and

at least one of said first or said second oligomers is a ~~chimeric~~ gapped oligomeric compound.

2. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said first and said second oligomers are a complementary pair of siRNA oligomers.

3. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said first and said second oligomers are an antisense/sense pair of oligomers.

4. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second oligomers has 12 to 50 nucleotides.

5. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second oligomers has 15 to 30 nucleotides.

6. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second oligomers has 21 to 24 nucleotides.

7. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said first oligomer is an antisense oligomer.

8. (original) The composition of claim 7 wherein said second oligomer is a sense oligomer.

9. (original) The composition of claim 7 wherein said second oligomer has a plurality of ribose nucleotide units.

10. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said first oligomer is ~~a chimeric~~ said gapped oligomeric compound.

11-12. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~13~~ 1 wherein said ~~gapmer~~ gapped oligomeric compound comprises two terminal RNA segments having nucleotides of a first type and an internal RNA segment having nucleotides of a second type and where said nucleotides of said first type are different from said nucleotides of said second type.

15. (currently amended) The composition of claim 14 wherein each of said nucleotides of said first type independently ~~including~~ include at least one sugar ~~substituent;~~ substituent selected from ~~said sugar substituent comprising~~ halogen, amino, trifluoroalkyl, trifluoroalkoxy, azido, aminooxy, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, O-, S-, or N(R*)-alkyl; O-, S-, or N(R*)-alkenyl; O-, S- or N(R*)-alkynyl; O-, S- or N-aryl, O-, S-, or N(R*)-aralkyl;

wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl and aralkyl may be substituted or unsubstituted C_1 to C_{10} alkyl, C_2 to C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 to C_{10} alkynyl, C_5-C_{20} aryl or C_6-C_{20} aralkyl; and said substituted C_1 to C_{10} alkyl, C_2 to C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 to C_{10} alkynyl, C_5-C_{20} aryl or C_6-C_{20} aralkyl comprising substitution with alkoxy, thioalkoxy, phthalimido, halogen, amino, keto, carboxyl, nitro, nitroso, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, imidazole, azido, hydrazino, aminooxy, isocyanato, sulfoxide, sulfone, disulfide, silyl, heterocycle, carbocycle, an intercalator, a reporter group, a conjugate, a polyamine, a polyamide, a polyalkylene glycol, or a polyether of the formula $(\text{-O-alkyl})_m$, where m is 1 to about 10; and R* is hydrogen, or a protecting group.

16-39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The composition of claim 14 wherein said nucleotides of said first type comprise nucleotides having a 2' sugar substituent and where said 2' sugar substituent is of the formula –X-Y, wherein:

X is O, S, NR**, or CR* wherein each R** is independently H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

Y is substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-20} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_{2-20} alkenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} aryl.

41-109. (canceled)

110. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

111-118. (canceled).

119. (new) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the nucleosides in said first and second oligomers are each independently linked by a phosphodiester or a phosphorothioate internucleoside linkage.